

29 April 1965

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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\*Dominican Republic: (Situation as of 0500 EDT)  
A member of the newly formed military junta has asked Ambassador Bennett for armed US intervention to restore public order in the country.

The officer, Colonel Pedro Benoit, added that the capital city is in such disorder that it is impossible to provide adequate protection for US citizens. Earlier, Ambassador Bennett had recommended that serious consideration be given to such intervention to prevent "another Cuba." He pointed out that if the hard-pressed loyalist forces are unable to prevail, all indications are that power will be assumed by groups clearly identified with the Communists.

The rebel movement is now clearly dominated by Communists and associated extremists. Most of the military elements who originally sparked the insurrection and the political followers of former President Bosch have given up the struggle. At least eight of the most active rebels are known to have been trained in or supported by Cuba, including four who received guerrilla training there. Some 45 extremists had returned to the country since last October after receiving training in Cuba or elsewhere in the Communist bloc.

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The 500 US Marines who landed in Santo Domingo early last evening to protect evacuating US citizens have taken up positions around the US Embassy and at a staging area for the evacuation. This Marine force would be inadequate to protect the embassy if attacked by the tanks, mortars, and artillery known to be in the possession of the rebels.

The position of the loyalist forces who entered the capital on Tuesday deteriorated rapidly yesterday afternoon. The rebels gained control of several strategic buildings in the city and overran at least two police posts, obtaining weapons, ammunition, and

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police uniforms. By nightfall a number of loyalist officers were demoralized and were calling for withdrawal from the city. The police chief admitted to a US embassy officer last night that his forces have practically ceased action because they are untrained to fight against the heavy weapons in rebel control. He said that almost every patrol he has sent out has been killed by heavy weapons fire from rooftops and that his one attempt to use a tank ended in disaster when it was destroyed by a rebel bazooka. Loyalist army units under Brigadier General Salvador Montas have occupied the National Palace and an infantry-supported tank unit under General Wessin y Wessin has a bridgehead on the edge of the city. However, the Dominican military has no experience and little training in the kind of street fighting that will be required to clear the well-armed rebels out of the central portions of the city.

Looting and atrocities are frequent in the rebel-controlled parts of the city. The Dominican Red Cross has estimated that, at a minimum, 400 have been killed and 1,200 wounded in the fighting thus far.

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As of midnight, the embassy had received no reports of disorders outside of the capital city. [REDACTED]

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France - West Germany: [France is trying to use an Allied declaration on Germany, due for release early next month, to promote De Gaulle's view that the German problem is primarily a European one.]

[West Germany agrees with the US view that the French-proposed text of the declaration gives insufficient acknowledgment of four-power responsibility for the German problem, and puts too much stress on European responsibility. This tends to minimize the role of the US and the UK. At a meeting of the Ambassadorial Group on 27 April Ambassador Alphand rejected a US suggestion that a corrective sentence be added.]

[Alphand declared that the French want to stress the "new idea" that no settlement of the German problem is possible without all European peoples being involved. A hint of this French approach was given by De Gaulle in his 4 February press conference.]

[Chancellor Erhard and Foreign Minister Schroeder are reported to be concerned lest differences over wording prevent the issuance of a joint statement at a time when Moscow is intent on exploiting the 20th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.]

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Panama: [Panamanian officials are concerned that opposition to President Robles may be reaching dangerous proportions.]

[General dissatisfaction has been growing over the administration's meager progress in meeting Panama's basic problems during its six months in power. Robles' lack of dynamism has seriously limited his effectiveness, and his political position has been weakened by lack of concern over public unrest and neglect of the interests of powerful members of his own coalition.]

[Some of Robles' most determined opponents have been encouraged by this situation to lay plans for a major effort to oust him. Among the reported plotters is former President Arnulfo Arias, who claims he actually won the presidential election in May 1964.]

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NOTES

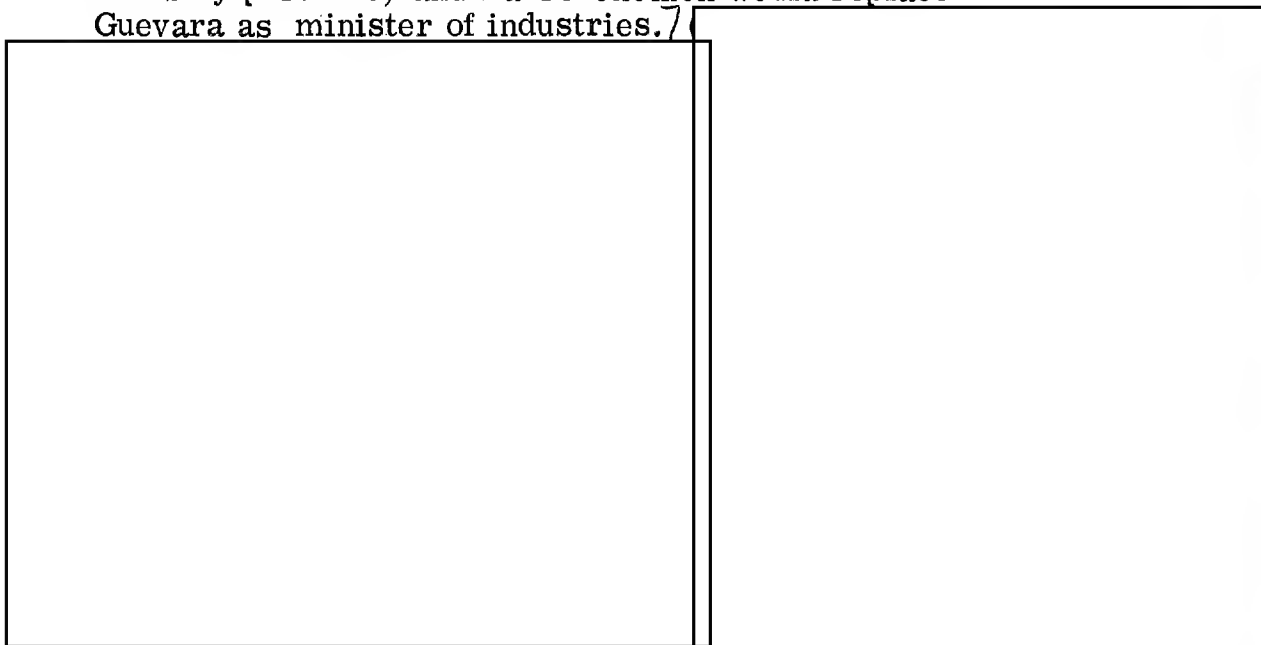
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\*Cuba: [ There is considerable speculation in Havana that a change in several ministerial posts may be in the offing. President Dorticos is said to be slated to head an expanded Ministry of the Economy in order to improve economic performance, and Foreign Minister Raul Roa is being discussed as his replacement in the presidency. Che Guevara would assume the Foreign Ministry portfolio, and Faure Chomon would replace Guevara as minister of industries.]

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France-SEATO: France's permanent representative on the SEATO council will participate in the 1 May preliminary SEATO meeting dealing with important administrative and procedural matters. This indicates that Paris probably does not plan an early withdrawal from the organization. Only an observer will be present at the sessions of the Council of Ministers, however, and France will ask that its status as observer be formally noted in the final communiqué, thus disassociating Paris from responsibility for its contents.

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